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Attorney Docket No.: 16869B-016600US Client Ref. No.: HAL-ID 154

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Naoko IWAMI, et al.

Application No.: 09/742,157

Filed: December 19, 2000

For: Guaranteed Data Access Speed of a

Storage System

Customer No.: 20350

Confirmation No. 9696

Examiner: Chad Zhong

Technology Center/Art Unit: 2154

AMENDMENT

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Technology Center 2100

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed March 9, 2004, on the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.